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10 April 1946

Dear Mr. Russell:

I wish to express my appreciation for the opportunity of discussing the importance of the 1947 budget for State Department intelligence activities to the Central Intelligence Group and the War and Navy Departments. It has occurred to me that the following brief analysis of the principal considerations involved might be of assistance to you in any discussions which you might have with the Secretary of State.

The concept of an interdepartmental Central Intelligence Group, as embodied in the President's directive, means that the national intelligence mission can be accomplished only if each of the executive departments performs the intelligence functions required to discharge its responsibilities for insuring the national security. In other words, no department is self-sufficient in the field of intelligence; each must depend on the others for a substantial part of its requirements. Therefore, the failure of any one department to carry its share of the load will not only affect adversely its own operations, but will have an extremely detrimental effect upon many other departments and upon the national intelligence program.

The role of the State Department in the conduct of the national intelligence program is second to none in importance and magnitude. Its responsibilities and capabilities in the extremely broad fields of foreign political and economic affairs are unique and can be discharged fully by no other department. Therefore, in these fields it is essential that the State Department perform its appropriate intelligence functions, not only to serve its own needs, but also those of the President, the War and Navy Departments, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other Federal departments and agencies.

I hope that the above notes may be of value to you, and that you will advise me if any further information or assistance is desired.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ KINGMAN DOUGLASS  
Acting Director

Honorable Donald S. Russell  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Department of State

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